

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7102

INFO AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL CAN THO

USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 16459

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT THIEU CALLS FOR VIGILANCE IN SEPTEMBER 15

QUANG TRI SPEECH

REF: FBIS S150410 SEPTEMB

1. SEPAKING SEPTEMBER 15 IN QUANG TRI CITY ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OF QUANG TRI, PRESIDENT THIEU CALLED FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST CONTINUING COMMUNIST DESIGNS TO CONQUER SVN, AND WARNED THAT SHOULD THE COMMUNISTS WIN, THEY WOULD SLAUGHTER SIX MILLION PEOPLE IN SVN. SEE REFERENCED FBIS FOR FULL TEXT. HIGHLIGHTS BELOW.

2. THE COMMEMORATION OF THE QUANG TRI VICTORY WAS AN ELABORATE MARTIAL CEREMONY, WITH THE FIRING OF SALUTES, A REQUIEM FOR THE DEAD, A PARADE, AND THE PRESENCE OF PRINCIPAL GVN OFFICIALS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. SPEAKING FIRST WAS I CORPS CG LT. GEN. NGO QUANG TRUONG, WHO EMPHASIZED THAT THE

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DECISIVE VICTORY OF QUANG TRI HAD BEEN WON BY VALIANT TROOPS UNDER

THE PERSONAL DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT THIEU.

3. THIEU'S 12-MINUTE ADDRESS WAS CAST LARGELY IN GENERALITIES. HE RECALLED THAT A YEAR AGO, THE PEOPLE OF SVN HAD BEEN EAGERLY AWAITING A DECISIVE VICTORY. THE TRI-THIEN BATTLEFIELD HAD PROVIDED THAT VICTORY; THE RVNAF MET THE NVA IN HEADLONG COMBAT AND DEFEATED IT. THIS HAD FORCED THE COMMUNISTS TO SIGN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT THIEU.

4. HOWEVER, THIEU ASSERTED, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT ABANDONED THEIR GOAL OF CONQUEST. THEY CONTINUE TO INFILTRATE MEN AND WAR MATERIEL. THEY REFUSE GENERAL ELECTIONS, WHICH ARE CALLED FOR BY THE AGREEMENT AND DEMANDED BY THE PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE OF SVN. THEY ARE ONLY AWAITING A SUITABLE OCCASION TO LAUNCH ANOTHER OFFENSIVE. THUS, THE VICTORY OF QUANG TRI IS ONLY A PARTIAL VICTORY, PRESIDENT THIEU WARNED. THE COMMUNISTS MUST BE "FORCED" TO OBSERVE THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

5. PRESIDENT THIEU THEN CALLED ON THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC TO BE VIGILANT: "DO NOT SLEEP, KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN" FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO CEASE VIOLATING THE CEASEFIRE, HE SAID. MAKE THEM AGREE TO A GENERAL ELECTION. IF THEY WERE TO CONQUER SVN, PRESIDENT THIEU PREDICTED, SIX MILLION NATIONALISTS WOULD BE SLAIN. THUS HE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING SLOGAN TO GUIDE THE TROOPS IN ALL THEIR ACTIONS: "PRESERVE FIRMLY THE NATIONAL TERRITORY, THEN ALL WILL BE SAVED; OTHERWISE, ALL WILL BE LOST."

6. THIEU CONCLUDED HIS ADDRESS BY URGING THE TROOPS TO SEEK TO PERFECT THEIR MARTIAL SKILLS, TO ADOPT AN AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE, IF THEY SUCCEED IN THIS, HE PROMISED, A RE-ONVASION BY THE COMMUNISTS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

7. PRESIDENT THIEU CONCLUDED BY CONGRATULATING THE ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE OF MR-1 FOR THEIR HEROISM IN THE CONTINUING BATTLE AGAINST COMMUNIST AGGRESSION.
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